

**FSCS Eleventh Annual Workshop  
and Steering Committee Meeting  
March 29 – April 1, 1998  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
Alexandra, VA**

**Minutes**

**Orientation of New SDC's**

Attending: Paul Steere, (CNMI), Sondra Taylor-Furbree (FL), Thomas Ploeg (GA), Lia E. Pyun (HI), Dorothy White (LA), Michael Osborne (MD), Timothy Owens (NC), Christopher Rumbaugh (OR), Carol Ann Colyer (PA), Jane Pinkston (TN), Karen Goettling (WA) and Betsey Sywetz (Deputy Director, IMLS Office of Library Services).

Strong support for the Library Statistics program was expressed by NCES Commissioner Pat Forgiione, the opening speaker and by Diane Frankel, IMLS Director, the Keynote Speaker at the luncheon on the first day.

Pat Forgiione provided the Welcome address. He confirmed NCES's continued commitment to NCLIS and to the Library Statistics Program and reviewed the challenges facing the program.

At the luncheon on March 30, Diane Frankel (IMLS Director) talked about the Institute and the Library Services and Technology Act. She encouraged all to use statistics to tell the story with passion and with persuasion.

**Awards:**

The 1998 Helen M. Eckard Award for Exemplary Use of FSCS Data was presented by Data Use Subcommittee chair, Keith Lance, to Professor John C. Bertot of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Dr. Bertot received the FSCS data use award in recognition of his major contributions to research on public libraries, the Internet, and discounted telecommunications rates ('e-rates'). Both his use of FSCS data and his collegial collaboration with the FSCS Steering Committee and State Data Coordinators serve as excellent models for other researchers.

The 1997 Keppel awards were presented to 42 States and 1 Territory. There were three first time Keppel award recipients (2 states and 1 territory). New State Data Coordinators or first time award winners totaled 11. New Chief Officers or first time winners totaled 9.

## **Business Meeting:**

Steering Committee Elections:

**One Year Term** - there was one vacancy to be filled:

Darla Cottrill (OH) and J. D. Waggoner (WV): **J. D. Waggoner elected**

**Three Year Terms** – there are two positions to be filled:

Roberta Brooker (IN), Jay Bank (KY), Lynn Shurden (MS) and Alan Zimmerman (WI): **Lynn Shurden and Alan Zimmerman elected**

## **Mentor Group reports:**

All groups reported good sessions.

In general the 1997 data submission (1996 data) went smoothly. Those reporting any problems indicated that CENSUS had provide quick response and solved the problem. There was a general consensus that edit checks need some work and the suggestion was made to make them more interactive like the StLA Survey.

Seven new and/or revised data elements were identified for the Steering Committee to pursue. These include:

- (1). Does the library provide remote access to the library's resources?
- (2). Maximum speed of public access service connections: <56K, 56K-120K, T1, T3, and other
- (3). Number of patrons accessing electronic resources.
- (4). Revision of the Capital Outlay, addition of an income question and revision of definitions.
- (5). Revision of definition of FSCS public library to include free service.
- (6). Number of Internet terminals (staff only and public use).
- (7). Revision of definition and data elements for Legal Basis Code to include establishing legislation, geographic service area, and governance.

There was a discussion about the inability to generate vital statistics (births/deaths/marriages/divorces) and the Data Use Committee is to address this. There is no interest in collecting information from the public libraries about e-rate at this time. Although there was a discussion about filtering no question was proposed for this.

Contacts for more information about proposed data elements:

Carol Ann Desch (NY) - collecting connectivity and patron access items in needed

Naomi Krefman (MI) - Capital Outlay if needed

Ann Piascik (RI) - Revision of FSCS definition of a public library if needed.

Dianne Carty is to compile the information and post it on the listserv for comments from the SDC's before the next Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee will use the information from the listserv to identify priority items for 1998.

Other issues identified are use of the term Visits vs. Attendance at programs, labeling of ILL to make it clearer (academic definitions are to be reviewed for possible wording), and the discussion about Imputation resulted in the warning: DO NOT IMPUTE CAPITAL OUTLAY.

Minutes are to be posted on the listserv. Official messages posted to the listserv are to be numbered. Anyone having difficulty with the listserv is to contact Keith Lance.

Although there are no funds for training this year, anyone having difficulty with DECPLUS or WINPLUS is to contact their mentor for assistance as quickly as possible. Help is available.

A discussion of problems with the adoption of last years data elements lead to the following conclusions:

- 1) The complexity of the data items was confusing.
- 2) COSLA concern and opposition to the number of items.
- 3) The need to prioritize the items and concentrate on adoption of those most needed.
- 4) The need for something that is simple to count and easy to explain at the local level.
- 5) A way of separating new items from items requiring slight changes.

State Data Coordinators were asked to identify nominations for the steering committee on the workshop evaluation form.

Concern was expressed about the lack of a NCLIS Coordinator for the Library Statistics Program. Barratt Wilkins reported that NCLIS should be appointing a director shortly and as soon as the director is appointed, a coordinator will be hired for the library statistics program.

There was a discussion about the requirement for having the meeting in DC area. Issues discussed included the need for the large number of representatives from federal agencies, the need for better understanding the needs and priorities of each partner, the cost for the DC area vs. the cost for outside the DC area.

The group recognized Susan Callan (WESTAT) for her hard work, which made the workshop run so smoothly. Susan indicated that it would be helpful to have more lead time for arranging locations of meetings. Conflicts this year included the Cherry Blossom Festival and standing conventions.

## Ups

- WESTAT
- Getting Ed Tabs
- Meals good
- Luncheon quality
- Availability of Coffee and Soda's
- Weather
- General location of Workshop
- Grocery store conveniently located
- Rooms nice
- Accessibility (NO RAMPS WERE NEEDED FOR ACCESSIBILITY, but could have been better).
- Shuttle
- Good breakout rooms
- Good temperature in rooms
- Hospitality
- Swimming Pool
- Use of discount airline rates (Supersaver rates)
- Travel Arrangements handling by WESTAT
- Relaxed/Comfortably paced meeting
- Census Demonstrations good
- Informal time to meet with colleges
- State data collection forms
- New People
- Quality equipment for breakout sessions
- Breakfast on own
- 9 a.m. start time
- No Evening meetings
- Only one speaker per meal
- Mentor Groups
- Eckard Award recipient - John Bertot

## Negatives:

- Classroom style for eating, round tables or ½ rounds preferred
- Eating at same table used for workshop
- Need fruit juice in the morning
- Shuttle Schedule (long wait sometimes)
- Lack of teaching in use of software – demo's Vs teaching
- Schedule could have been tighter (workshop could have been 2 days)
- Absence of GIS presentation because of Steve Fischer's illness
- Miscommunication with vendors

## So-So

Mary Jo's room